

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action of December 27, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to claims, and the following remarks, are a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 19, 21 and 22 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 15-18 and 20 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 19 and 21-25 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for consideration. Applicant notes that claims 19, 21 and 22 are not amended in response to any statutory rejection, and submits that claims 19, 21 and 22 are entitled to their full range of equivalents.

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action indicated that claims 22-25 are allowed. The Office Action also indicated that claims 19, 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 19, 21 and 22 are amended to be placed in independent form, and, therefore, are allowable. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the finding of allowable subject matter.


Claims 15-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,054,894 (Wright et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,049,832 (Cavers). Claims 15-18 and 20 are canceled without prejudice, as discussed above. Thus, applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection be withdrawn.

It is submitted that each of claims 19 and 21-25 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art. It is therefore respectfully requested that claims 19, 21 and 22 be allowed along with allowed claims 23-25, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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